

**Southend-on-Sea City Council**  
**Report of Executive Director**  
**(Neighbourhoods and Environment)**  
**To**  
**Licensing Committee**  
**On**  
**17<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Agenda  
Item No.**

Report prepared by: Elizabeth Georgeou Head of Regulatory  
Services

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**Review of Fares and Charges**

**Licensing Committee**

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**A Part 1 Public Agenda item**

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**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 Members are invited to consider the results of a consultation with the Southend Licensed Taxi Drivers Association (SLTDA) for an increase in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle fares and charges.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 **That the changes to the fare chart structure be duly advertised, implementing the public consultation process.**
- 2.1 **To approve the revised fare chart set out at Appendix 1 subject to consideration of any objections to the statutory advertisement of the proposals by the Licensing Committee.**
- 2.2 **To return the proposed changes to the fare chart to the Licensing Committee for consideration where there are objections to the statutory advertisement.**

**3. Background**

- 3.1 The Council is empowered to determine fares for Hackney Carriages. In addition, all those private hire vehicles which are equipped with a meter must also apply the same fares. Revision to the fares must be advertised before any revision comes into effect.
- 3.2 Licensing Committee 21/10/14 Minute 308 resolved the circumstances when a fare increase would be proposed and the methodology to be applied to calculating the new fees and charges. It was agreed that the decision on whether to increase the fares and charges be based on Southend being around 60 in a national League Table of taxi fares. The league table is produced, updated and published monthly in the national Private Hire and Taxi Monthly publication and records fares across all Licensing Authorities in the UK. While not being an official Government published League Table, it is widely acknowledged to be the definitive document for recording and comparing taxi fares. As at September 2022, Southend-on-Sea City Council was rated as between 170 and 188 in that table.

- 3.3 There is no automatic entitlement for the trade to have a fare increase at any time. Any fare increase proposed is subject to approval by the Council. The last time the fares were increased was in 2019 at the meeting of Licensing Committee held 17 October 2019 (Minute 487 refers) although due to covid implementation was delayed until 21 October 2021. (Appendix 2)
- 3.4 There was an emergency temporary increase agreed by the Licensing Committee at its meeting on 23 March 2022 (Minute 852 refers) (Appendix 3) as a result of the increase in fuel prices. This increase was agreed for a period of 1 year, or until an application is made by the trade for an increase.
- 3.5 In line with the methodology referred to in 3.2 above there were four options proposed to Southend on Sea City Council's licenced trade.
- 40p to be added to the face
  - 20p to be added to the face and 20p on the yardage
  - 40p on the yardage
  - No increase
  - 40 pence to be added to the yardage of the fare tariff (currently 186 & 142 yards respectively), changing the yardage to 170 and 134 yards respectively

The calculated increase of 40p on the yardage will result in an increase to approximately £6.80 for the two-mile fare instead of £6.40. The meter increases in 20p increments. This would put Southend on Sea City Council in position 102 to 124 inclusive of the Private Hire and Taxi Monthly publication published September 2022.

There is no change to the day rate or the unsocial hours rate.

#### **4. Corporate Implications**

##### **4.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map**

The Council's outcome delivery plan is to be Connected and Smart and intends to establish joined up transport across the town. The provision of a viable taxi and hire car service is supported by the Council's transport strategy.

The taxi and private hire service contributes to the Safe and Well outcome. The availability of these services across the town may improve the feeling of safety for individuals using the night-time economy, enabling people to leave the area in a managed way. It also supports access to services for those who are unable to take public transport and are unable to drive.

##### **4.2 Financial Implications**

The cost of implementing any fare changes is contained within the licence fee.

##### **4.3 Legal Implications**

Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 details the process for fixing of fares, which will be followed.

If no objections are made within the period specified in the notice, or if all objections made are withdrawn, the table of fares will come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice or the date the last objection is withdrawn, whichever date is the later.

#### **4.4 People Implications**

None

#### **4.5 Property Implications**

None

#### **4.6 Consultation**

All licensed drivers were written to inviting them to participate in the consultation, which was accessible through the Council MySouthend portal via a link to be provided to them individually and took place between 22 August and 12 September 2022. ([Appendix 4](#))

#### **4.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications**

An Equalities Assessment has been undertaken and will be reassessed if there are responses to the statutory consultation. There may be an adverse impact on those who use licenced taxi and private hire services because of the increase in cost. However, the increase in fares is lower than the rate of inflation and represents the first increase since 2021. (see 3.3, above). In addition, the 40p fuel surcharge will no longer apply.

#### **4.8 Risk Assessment**

The increase in fares may deter users from using licenced taxi and private hire services. This is balanced against the increase being below inflation and supporting the viability of a licenced hackney carriage and private hire service.

#### **4.9 Value for Money**

Not applicable

#### **4.10 Community Safety Implications**

Providing a licenced taxi and private hire service supports safe egress from town centres.

#### **4.11 Environmental Impact**

None

### **5. Background Papers**

None

### **6. Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Revised Fare Chart

Appendix 2 - Licensing Committee 17 October 2019 Minute 487

Appendix 3 - Licensing Committee 23 March 2022 Minute 852

Appendix 4 - Consultation Response



# Appendix 1

## Revised Fare Chart

New Logo Here

### Authorised Fares

November 2022

#### Standard Rates

<b>£3.00</b>	For the first ¼ mile or the first 2 minutes (or a combination of parts of such distance or time)
<b>20p</b>	For each additional 170 yards or 48 seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) until a fare of £6.80 is shown on the taxi meter
<b>20p</b>	For each additional 134 yards or 36 seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) when a fare of £8.80 is shown on the taxi meter

#### NIGHT CHARGE/UNSOCIAL HOURS

For hirings begun between 9pm and midnight and 4am and 6am, also on Sundays, Bank Holidays and Public Holidays between 6am and midnight, also between 6am and midnight on 1 January and 4am until 6am on 2 January, an additional:

**£1.00**

For hirings from midnight until 4am, and from midnight until 6am Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays, **except during Christmas and New Year periods**, an additional:

**£2.00**

#### CHRISTMAS CHARGES

For hirings from midnight 24 December to 6am 26 December (double the day and unsocial hours rate)

**£8.00**

For hirings on Boxing Day from 6am to 6am on 27 December (plus an additional 10p on the Standard Yard Rate :

**£5.00**

#### NEW YEAR CHARGES (AN ADDITIONAL)

For hirings from midnight 31 December to 6am 1 January (double standard rates and unsocial hours rate)

**£8.00**

#### Extra Charges

##### 1. LUGGAGE

For any luggage carried. No charge for disabled persons wheelchairs, disability aids or any animal transported in the vehicle

("Luggage" is intended as hand luggage, shopping bags, suitcases, etc. The driver reserves the right to negotiate an additional charge for larger items up to a maximum of £10)

**40p**  
(Max Charge)

##### 2. ADDITIONAL PASSENGERS

For each person in excess of one

**40p**

#### LOST PROPERTY

Specific requests for the delivery of property left in taxis must be paid for at the metered fare

**ANY COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE MADE TO SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL, CIVIC CENTRE, VICTORIA AVENUE, SOUTHEND ON SEA, ESSEX SS2 6ZG. COMPLAINTS CAN ALSO BE EMAILED TO [hackneycarriage@southend.gov.uk](mailto:hackneycarriage@southend.gov.uk) THE NUMBER OF THE CAB OR DRIVER SHOULD BE QUOTED.**

# Appendix 2

## Licensing Committee 17 October 2019 Minute 487

### Review of Fares and Charges

Further to Minute 101 of its meeting held on 26 June 2019, the Committee received a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) that presented the results of the consultation with the Southend Licensed Taxi Drivers Association (SLTDA) for an increase in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle fares and charges and other associated amendments.

#### Resolved:-

1. That the changes to the fare and extra charges structure set out at Appendix 1 of the submitted report be duly advertised, implementing the public consultation process.
2. That subject to there being no representations received following statutory advertisement, the Deputy Chief Executive (place) be authorised to approve the revised fare chart set out at Appendix 1 of the submitted report and implement the new charges.
3. That any objections received during the statutory advertisement of the proposals be submitted to the Licensing Committee for consideration.

# Appendix 3

## Licensing Committee 23 March 2022 Minute 852

### Temporary Increase to Taxi Fares

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (Neighbourhoods and Environment) that sought approval of the temporary amendment of the fare structure of Hackney Carriages (HC) Private Hire Vehicles (PHV) for a period of one year (from the date of amendment) after which it will be reviewed, or until the review of all licensing conditions is completed, in response to the current fuel price emergency.

It was noted that the intention of these changes was to maintain the number of vehicles available to the public by ensuring drivers' vehicles are financially viable. In response to questions regarding the consultation process, the Council's Regulatory Services Manager confirmed that in addition to the statutory requirement to place a public notice in the local paper, a copy of the notice would be placed on the notice board in the reception area of the Civic Centre and placed on the Council's website. He also undertook to inform SAVS (Southend Association of Voluntary Services) and the Citizens Advice Bureau of the outcome of the consultation.

#### Resolved:-

1. That the fare structure of Hackney Carriages (HC) Private Hire Vehicles (PHV) be temporarily amended to allow a temporary additional fare of 40p per trip.
2. That the revised fare chart set out at Appendix 1 be approved.
3. That any changes to the fare and extra charges' structure be duly advertised, implementing the public consultation process. Any appeals will be heard by the Licensing Committee. In the eventuality that no objections are received, the amendment be deemed as approved without the need to return to the Committee for consideration. To avoid the requirement not to consult during the local election *purdah* period, the consultation will commence on 6th May 2022 or later.

# Appendix 4

## Consultation Response

Drivers were given the following 4 options:

- 20p on the face and 20p on the yardage, meaning that passengers would see an additional 20p on the face of the meter and a further 20p would be added incrementally up to 2 miles.
- 40p on the face, meaning that passengers would see an additional 40p on the face of the meter.
- 40p on the yardage, meaning the fee would increase incrementally up to 2 miles by which point it would have increased by 40p
- No increase

The outcome of the vote was as follows:

	<b><u>Total</u></b>
20p on the face and 20p on the yardage	34
40p on the face	60
40p on the yardage	91
No increase	4